MEMORIAL

Showing the Advantages the Kingdom of *Scotland* may have by the Undertaking, and Improvement of Fiſhings for Export, whether by Societies, or ſingular Perſons, moſtly taken from the Pens and Mouths of Men of the greateſt Knowledge and Experience in Fiſhing and Trade.

Writte by Colonelle John Buchan of Cairnbulge from whom I had all this Collection in year 1721

Printed in the Year 1700.

F6648.46*

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
GIFT OF
DANIEL B. FEARING
30 JUNE 1915

MEMORIAL, &c.

AS we owe it to our Countrey, to communicat what we think may conduce to make it flouriſh, ſo Men in Power and Authority ought to encourage ſuch Attempts: All Publick Works, tending to the advantage both of Prince and People, deſerve publick Encouragement, and all theſe that are to pertake of the Benefite, ought likewiſe to joyn in the furtherance of the Thing.

Of ſuch a quality is the Fiſhing on the Coſts of *Scotland*, being a ſolid and ſure Contrivance, upon a Treaſure at our very Doors, and for the putting forth our Hands to take, which though hitherto ſo much neglected by our ſelves, yet at ſome hundreds of Miles diſtance hath been taken up by our Neighbours, to a vaſt encreſs of their Wealth, Greatneſs and Power.

The general Encouragements from the Publick, that ſuch an undertaking doth require, are the *Reviſing* and Adapting to preſent uſe, ſuch Laws as are already made, and the making of other neceſſary new ones in favour of, and for encouraging of Fiſhing-Companies, to the end that by the Immunities and Priviledges given, Strangers may be encouraged and invited, not only to joyn in their Money, for the carrying on and ſupporting a Manufacture and Trade; The ſubject Matter whereof, is our own natural Product, but likeways to tranſplant themſelves and Families, to the peopling our Countrey, promoting of Trade, improvement of our waſte Grounds, & bettering of all ſorts of Manufacture, neither for ſome time ſhall we be able to carry on the Work to any Perfection, without their Help and Direction.

Nor is it to be doubted, but that the Repreſentatives of the Kingdom, conſidering the Advantages ariſing from this Trade,

will give a national Countenance to it, and an advantageous Conſtitution by Authority of Parliament.

For though I do conclude that privat perſons may proceed upon this Undertaking, without any fear of Loſs in the end, provided they underſtand how to manage their own Affairs, and have perſons expert in Catching, Curing, and Packing the Fiſh, and in the Nature and Uſe of Salts.

Yet the matter may be difficult, and expenſive at firſt, and perhaps above the reach of particular Men, let them be never ſo well inclined, publick Spirited, and deſireous to compaſs a thing, that may be a laſting Benefite to their Countrey, eſpecially conſidering, that we may have to deal with Competitors, who will uſe endeavours, to Quaſh and Diſhearten the Undertaking in the beginning.

So that to put this Affair in ſuch a Motion as may continue, for a long Term of Time, it may be worth the Conſideration of ſuch as ſtudy the common Welfare, whether it may not be adviſable for the Publick, to give ſome Foundation for the Encouragement of privat perſons, who otherways may be loath to venture, upon an Experiment, that hath hitherto ſo often miſcarried, though meerly by ill Conduct, Deſign, or Miſmanagement.

The Influence this Fiſhing-Trade will have on the Proſperity of the Nation.

1. It will be a Foundation of Wealth to the Kingdom, for beſides the Gain of the Adventurers, it will yearly ſenſibly add to the National Stock.

2. It will encreaſs Shipping and multiply Sea-men, every Buſs being computed to bread eight Seamen yearly, and to furniſh Trade, for two or three Ships more, ſo that when once we come to Imploy fifty Buſſes for fiſhing at Sea, we ſhall yearly add four hundred to the Number of our Seamen, and above an hundred Sale of other Ships to the Number of our Shipping.

3. It will bring the Ballance of Trade, with moſt Nations on our ſide, by bringing in Commodities on the Truck, which we now

now pay ready Money for, and our Ballance, we ſhall receive in *ſpecie*, or value in Exchange.

4. It will many ways raiſe the value of Lands, particularly by the incouraging of planting our wateriſh and moſt barren Grounds with Aller and Willows, of which is to be made Hoops, Baskets, *&c.* and when grown to large Trees, the beſt of Charcoal for making of Gun-Powder, and conſequently a new mean of Export.

5. It will free the Country of all Loyterers and Beggers, by imploying ſome at Catching, and ſome at Curing the Fiſh, others at Spinning, making of Nets, Hooks, Lynes, Ropes, *&c.*

6. There is ſcarce any condition of People that will not be the better for it, and the Community moſt of all, for as Trade begets Trade, ſo this will do Commerce, People the Country, Enrich the Merchant both by Export and Import, and the Tradeſman by ſetting all Hands to Work, Ten Thouſand Pound *Sterling* in this being computed to employ more Hands, than Fourty Thouſand in any other Trade we are capable of.

The Profits already got by theſe of late, have only Fiſhed by halfs, is of ſome encouragement to the Undertakers, whereof the greateſt Gainers will be ſuch whoſe Lands are adjoyning to, and are Proprietors of the Harbors, Ports, Creeks, and other places of Manufacture.

All great Companies being of uneaſie Management, and ſubject to Jealouſies and Diviſion. It is propoſed, That this Trade ſhall be moſt advantagiouſly carried on, and managed, by divers ſmall Companies, conſiſting of ſome Noblemen and Gentlemen, with a mixture of Merchants.

And to the end that this Trade, when it comes to bear, may be brought up to, and kept in due Repute in Forraign Mercats, it will be highly neceſſary, that we tye our ſelves up to ſuch Rules and Methods, as may be thereto ſubſervient, and have the ſame enacted into Laws, under the ſevereſt of Penalties, for which end, ſuch of the *Dutch* Edicts and Regulations, as are applicable to our Circumſtances, ſhall be Tranſlated.

Now

Now there are only two ways of Fiſhing, the one by open Boats, as in *New-found-land*; the other, by Buſſes or ſmall Doggers, who may promiſcuouſly Fiſh for Herrings and Codd, tho' for the moſt they Fiſh for Herrings, that turning to beſt account.

For in this Trade alone, it is computed, that the *Dutch* do imploy about Two Hundred Thouſand Mariners and Fiſhers, and that the yearly Amount, of the Value of their export of Fiſh, into the *Sound*, *Hamburgh*, *Ruſſia*, *Sweden*, and theſe other Eaſtern Countries, doth exceed a Million *Sterling*.

In their publick Edicts, they call it their *Golden Mine*, and aſſert it to yield them more Treaſure then *Potoſi*, or both *Indies* to *Spain*; for *anno* 1688, upon taking account of the ſeveral Trades and Employments, by which they Subſiſted, in order to find which beſt deſerved the Protection and Encouragement of the Publick, it appeared that the number of the Subjects of the *States-General*, were Two Million Four Hundred & Fifty Thouſand, of which, beſides theſe employed in the *In*-land Fiſhery, four Hundred and Fifty Thouſand were then maintained by Fiſhing at Sea, and the Traffick depending thereon, ſince which they have much increaſed the number of their Buſſes.

That both the Herring and Codd Fiſhing, lyes fairer for us than the *Dutch* is very evident, there being a great many *Advant*ges we have that they want, and none they have we want, ſafe Induſtry.

For our Coaſts do yeild us a continual Sea Harveſt of Gain, no Seaſon of the year paſſing away without ſome apparent means of profitable Employment, to ſuch as with Diligence will apply themſeles to Fiſhing, which from the beginning of the year to the latter end thereof, continueth upon ſome part or other of our Coaſts, & that in great Shoals & infinit Numbers, even in our very *Loches* and Bayes, as well as on our *Coaſts*, where in caſe of Storme unloading, taking in of Proviſions or the like, it is not above three or four Hours Work to recover a Harbour, and without any loſs of time to refit and put to Sea again: Whereas the *Dutch* have uſually five or ſix hundred Miles to Sail before they come to their

firſt Fiſhing, and then they ly at the mercy of the Winds, for want of a Port, and in caſe of Unloading they have as far back again, which takes up a great deal of time, hinders the Buſineſs and endangers the loſs of their Mercats.

Tho true it is that ſometimes they have their *Yagers* or *Chaſers* to take off their Fiſh at Sea, and to refurniſh their Buſſes, with Salt, Cask and other neceſſaries, which adds to the Charges; And yet if it happens to be but a Rough or Rowling Sea, they muſt ly by and wait for a Calm: Whereas with us that are in Harbour the Work of Unloading, Repacking and ſending away our Fiſh to the firſt Mercats, goeth on in all Weather; So that in reſpect of the nearneſs of the Fiſhing, and the vents in to the Eaſt-Countreys, the Wages of Servants, chapeneſs of Victualling, and commodiouſnes of our Ports and Harbours to receive the Buſſes on all occaſions, we have very much the better of them.

In ſo far that upon the whole, we can catch, cure and pack Herrings by two thirds Cheaper than they, which will do much more then anſwer on third difference that may be between us and them on the price of Money.

The Fiſhing Trade being then ſo profitable and lying ſo open to us, that we may Maſter it with leſs Expenſe, Difficulty and hazard than the *Dutch*, it will be our own Faults if we do not improve it to the greateſt Temporal Bleſſing, *Providence* ſeems to beſtow on a People.

Having it planted on our Coaſts, we ſeem to be courted to receive it, for if we do but ſecond the Gifts of Nature with our own Induſtry, we cannot well fail to attain the *Advantage* pointed at.

And now the deſires of the People of *Scotland* running ſtrongly to Trade, there ſeems nothing wanting but that men in Authority give the neceſſary Encouragments to this and all other ſuch National Attemps.